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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WJLA-TV ABC Network

DATE September 23, 1982 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT What's Happening in Lebanon

JACK ANDERSON: A startling story is locked in the secret files of the Central Intelligence Agency. I've seen some of the classified documents. The story they tell helps to explain what's happening in Lebanon.

Listen to this. Back in 1955, Israel's top leaders held an intriguing secret strategy session. The late Moshe Dayan was then the Army Chief of Staff. He urged that Israel select and support a Christian military officer in Lebanon. Let me quote directly what Dayan is reported to have said: "The thing that's necessary is to find an officer, even just a major. We would either win his heart or buy him with money to make him declare himself the savior of the Maronite Christian population." I'm still quoting. "Then the Israeli Army will enter Lebanon, will occupy the necessary territory, and will create a Christian regime which will allow itself with Israel. The territory from the Litani River southward will be totally annexed by Israel."

That was in 1955. Thereafter, Israel got behind an ex-Lebanese officer named Saad Haddad, who became the virtual warlord of the Litani River area.

Here's another excerpt from a top secret CIA report just recently: "Hard-liners in Israel have for years pointed out that Israel, by seizing territory up to the Litani River, would gain a more defensive border and a greater supply of water."

Now let me bring the story up to date. Just a few days ago, the State Department delivered a report to the White House. It was stamped "Secret" and dated September 15th. The report warns that Israel not only is expected to seek legitimacy for its protege Saad Haddad, but may be setting up permanent



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administrative agencies in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin has assured President Reagan in a private message -- I'm quoting -- that Israel would not covet one inch of Lebanese territory. But Reagan is not so sure.

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